[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

has left behind him a noble tradition which, for ages to come, must serve posterity as an example and an inspiration. This Legislative Council, on which it is our proud privilege to sit, was his spontaneous gift more than thirty-six years ago when representative institutions were unknown in Indian States, and even to-day it maintains its position in the forefront of such institutions. "None knew him but to love, none named him but to praise."

It is further our duty and our privilege to tender respectfully to the gracious lady, who has now assumed the direction of the country's affairs, Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent, our humble fealty and homage.

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## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

### *Vaikam Satyagraha.*

52. Mr. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether Congress volunteers have occasioned any breach of the peace at Vaikam;

(*b*) whether the caste-Hindus who oppose *Satyagraha* at Vaikam have threatened breach of the peace;

(*c*) whether some caste-Hindus at Vaikam have publicly attacked Congress volunteers;

(*d*) whether the Government have taken any steps against caste-Hindus who have committed breach of the peace;

(*e*) whether the Government allow Christians and Mahomedans to walk along the roads in question without molestation;

(*f*) whether Ezhavas and Pulayas who have become Arya Samajists were refused admission to the prohibited roads;

(*g*) whether the Government are prepared to allow Ezhavas and Pulayas converted to Islam or Christianity to walk along those roads;

(*h*) whether Valans and Ezhavas take *kodikkayar* (flag-rope) to the western gate of the Vaikam temple a day previous to the commencement of the *utsavam* there; and

(*i*) whether any of the volunteers convicted were handcuffed by the Police when they were being taken to the jail?

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MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): (*a*) Government have no information that the Congress volunteers have actually committed any breach of the peace, but their actions were such as to provoke others to disturb the peace.

(*b*) Government have no information to that effect

(*c*) It is reported that some Congress volunteers were assaulted while they were going in procession.

(*d*) The Police are investigating two cases of such assault brought to their notice.

(*e*) On the assumption that the member is referring to the roads within the Vaikam temple *sanketam* limits, the answer is that there is no prohibition against the use of these roads by the communities mentioned.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) The question, being a hypothetical one, cannot be answered.

(*h*) It is reported that a particular family of Valans is allowed to do so and a *suddhi* is performed immediately thereafter.

(*i*) Government have no information, but will enquire.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): In regard to answer (*a*), may I know what their actions were which provoked others to disturb peace?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It will be clear from the Press Communiqué itself.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): The Press Communiqué is not clear. That is why I asked the question whether a breach of the peace was actually provoked.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): As breach of the peace was not actually committed.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether the District Magistrate has issued any order to the caste-Hindus who oppose *Satyagraha* to keep the peace?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): They were told that, if they persisted, action would be taken against them, and therefore they gave it up.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Did any caste-Hindus depose before the Magistrate that they would create a breach of the peace?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am not aware of it.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): With regard to the answer to (*e*), are the Government aware that the Congress volunteers were assaulted by some caste-Hindus at Vaikam in the presence of the Police?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I believe some Police officer was present and action was taken.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): In regard to (*e*), my question is with regard to the roads round the Vaikam temple. The answer is: "On the assumption that the

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[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

member is referring to the roads within the Vaikam temple *sanketam* limits, the answer is that there is no prohibition against the use of these roads by the communities mentioned." My question is with regard to the roads round the Vaikam temple.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The answer is with reference to that.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I put the further question whether there is no prohibition against other communities.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not quite follow the question.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): The answer is: "On the assumption that the member is referring to the roads within the Vaikam temple *sanketam* limits, the answer is that there is no prohibition against the use of these roads by the communities mentioned." My *further* question is whether there is any prohibition against other communities.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not quite follow what exactly the member means by "prohibition against other communities."

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I mean prohibition against the use of the roads by other communities.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Communities which were not using the roads were prohibited from using them. What were the communities that were so prohibited is a question of fact which has to be elicited hereafter.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether Mahomedans and Christians who were converted to those religions from Ezhavas and Pulayas are, as a matter of fact, admitted to these roads?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The answer is contained in (*g*).

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): No; that is another question.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Government are not aware that recent converts have been using them.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): My question is whether they are prohibited.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): There is no such thing as prohibition or permission. The communities that were using the roads were entitled to such use and they may use them now also.

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MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): But some communities are prohibited.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The communities that were not using the roads before are not allowed to use them now. If they did not use them before, they cannot use them now.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I ask whether Christians and Mahomedans recently converted from Ezhavas and Pulayas were not allowed the use of the roads?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I say, strictly speaking, they ought not to be allowed to use these roads if they had not been using it before conversion.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): "Whether they are prohibited" is my question.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): There is no prohibition by Government.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether Ezhavas and Pulayas who have become Arya Samajists are prohibited from using these roads?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): With regard to (*f*), may I know why some Arya Samajists were refused admission to the prohibited roads?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Because they were not using those roads before.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether there were many Arya Samajists before?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): A particular person who was not using the road in the morning cannot use it in the evening; persons who were not using the roads before will not be allowed to make use of them now.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I want a definite answer.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Madhava Variar, you cannot compel the member to answer in the way in which you want him to answer.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Government are bound to answer. I am entitled to it.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I say Arya Samajists were not allowed to use the roads.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I ask whether they were prohibited or not.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Answer (*f*) distinctly says whether the Ezhavas and Pulayas who have become Arya Samajists were refused admission to the prohibited roads or not. They were refused admission.

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[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : Why were they refused admission ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Because they were not using the roads before.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : May I know whether there were Arya Samajists before?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : The fact that one becomes an Arya Samajist will not alter the matter. For the information of the member, I will quote the case reported in 10, *T. L. R.*, in which the custom prohibiting particular communities from using public roads was recognised, even when particular individuals of such communities had become converts.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : Was it about Vaikam ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : No about Nagercoil or some other place.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I do not ask any question about the *T. L. R.* My question is with regard to the opinion of Government in the matter.

PRESIDENT : The opinion of Government cannot form the subject of a question.

*Violence of caste-Hindus at Vaikam.*

53. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the caste-Hindus at Vaikam have organised themselves into a party to molest *Satyagraha* volunteers ; and,

(*b*) whether the Government have taken any action against them and, if so, what ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : The member is referred to the answer* to Mr. Joseph Panjikaran's question.

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* The question and answer, which are not included in the Proceedings as the member was absent at question time, are reproduced below :

*Alleged Maltreatment of Satyagrahis at Vaikam by some caste-Hindus.*

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*) : (*a*) Do the Government know that the *Satyagrahis* at Vaikam are being assaulted, belaboured and otherwise maltreated by a section of the caste-Hindus ?

(*b*) What steps have the Government taken to put a stop to such maltreatment, and if no steps have been taken, why ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : (*a*) and (*b*) The member's attention is invited to the Press Communiqué dated the 10th July 1924, published at page 542, Part I, of the *Government Gazette* dated the 17th July, 1924.

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